

July 28, 2010

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**“National Security, Interagency Collaboration, and Lessons from SOUTHCOM and AFRICOM.”**

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On Wednesday, July 28, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. in 2247 Rayburn House Office Building, the Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs held a hearing entitled, **“National Security, Interagency Collaboration, and Lessons from SOUTHCOM and AFRICOM.”** The Hearing continued the Subcommittee’s oversight of interagency cooperation.

Emerging threats, from piracy to narcotics trafficking, are increasingly multijurisdictional in nature and require an innovative approach to interagency efforts.

This hearing examined the mechanisms and processes for collaboration between different U.S. agencies and the Department of Defense’s regional combatant commands. Using the findings and recommendations of two new Government Accountability Office reports on U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) and U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) as a point of departure, the hearing looked at how the Department of Defense, the Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and others are cooperating to advance U.S. national security interests. Witnesses discussed each agency’s approach to interagency collaboration as well as what procedures, personnel, and organizational structures can be put in place to ensure that the agencies are able to work together efficiently and effectively.

[View Webcast](#)

## WITNESSES

- **John Pendleton**, Director, Defense Capabilities and Management Team, U.S. Government Accountability Office;
- **James Schear**, Ph.D, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Partnership Strategy and Stability Operations, U.S. Department of Defense;
- **Thomas Countryman**, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs, U.S. Department of State; and
- **Susan Reichle**, Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, U.S. Agency for International Development.

## DOCUMENTS AND LINKS

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[Opening Statement of Chairman John Tierney](#)

[Prepared Statement of Mr. John Pendleton](#)

[Prepared Statement of Dr. James Schear](#)

[Prepared Statement of Mr. Thomas Countryman](#)

[Prepared Statement of Ms. Susan Reichle](#)

[Written Statement for the Record of Ms. Mariko Silver, Acting Assistant Secretary of International Affairs, U.S. Department of Homeland Security](#)